Transit Visa for Indians

1769. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made in discussion with Bangladesh on issuance of transit visa for journey from Tripura to Kolkata *via* Bangladesh; and

(b) the attitude of Bangladesh Government in issuing transit visa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Provision for issue of double entry visa already exists in the visa agreement signed between India and Bangladesh in 2001. The government of Bangladesh has been requested at the highest levels to authorise their visa office in Agartala to issue such visas liberally to those travellers intending to travel to Kolkata and back *via* Dhaka.

(c) The Government of Bangladesh is looking into the matter.

Recognition to Iraqi Governing Council by India

1770. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that India has recognized Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) as the legitimate Governing body of Iraq;

(b) if so, the reasons for Government's objection to sending Indian troops to Iraq as requested by IGC; and

(c) the details of proposals that Government have agreed for the reconstruction of Iraq in post war scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) The unanimously adopted UN Security Council Resolution 1511 determines that the Governing Council and its Ministers are the principal bodies of the Iraqi Interim Administration until an internationally recognized representative government is established. India has taken positive note of various elements of the Resolution.